

# memorandum

DATE: November 20, 1998

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance(EH-413):Powers:6-7301

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of Draft RCRA Waste Minimization PBT Chemical List

TO: Distribution

**PURPOSE** To notify DOE elements of the availability of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Draft RCRA Waste Minimization PBT Chemical List. EPA published the subject notice of data availability and request for comment in the Federal Register on Monday, November 9, 1998. Comments on the notice are due to EPA on Friday, January 8, 1999.

**BACKDROP** In November 1994, EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response published the Waste Minimization National Plan. This plan reaffirmed EPA's commitment to making pollution prevention the guiding principle of the Agency's environmental efforts. With the release of the Waste Minimization National Plan, EPA outlined its major goals, objectives and action items to pave the way toward national reductions in the generation of hazardous waste.

The Plan focused on reducing the generation and subsequent release to the environment of the most *persistent, bioaccumulative* and *toxic* (PBT) constituents in hazardous wastes, and established three goals:

- 1) to reduce, as a nation, the presence in hazardous waste of the most persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic constituents by 25 percent by the year 2000 and 50 percent by the year 2005;
- 2) to avoid transferring these constituents across environmental media;  
and
- 3) to ensure that these constituents are reduced at their source whenever possible, or when not possible, recycled in an environmentally sound manner.

In stakeholder meetings held during development of the Plan, EPA promised to address industry and state concerns by developing a prioritized list of the hazardous constituents to be reduced. Subsequently, EPA developed the Waste Minimization Prioritization Tool to prioritize chemicals based on their inherent hazard, which is based on their persistence, bioaccumulation potential, and toxicity. Using this tool, EPA established a chemical PBT score which is based on human health and ecological concerns. EPA selected as candidates for the list those chemicals which scored 7 or higher (on a scale of 3 to 9) for either human health concern or ecological concern. Other criteria were applied, resulting in a list of 53 persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic chemicals which may be found in hazardous wastes regulated under RCRA.

EPA will rely on voluntary activities to promote reductions of PBT chemicals in RCRA waste. EPA is considering using both the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) and the RCRA hazardous waste Biennial Reporting System (BRS) to measure progress toward the goal of reducing the generation of PBT chemicals found in RCRA hazardous waste.

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**ACTION** EPA welcomes public comment on any aspect of the methodology used to develop the draft RCRA PBT List. The Agency also requests comment on specific issues listed at the end of the November 9, 1998, Federal Register Notice, which can be accessed on the Internet at <http://tis-nt.eh.doe.gov/oepa/rules/63FR60332.pdf>. The Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance will prepare a consolidated Departmental response to the notice, and accept written comments from DOE elements **on or before Monday, December 21, 1998**. Comments made be sent by fax or e-mail to Jane Powers, EH-413.

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** Questions/comments regarding this notice may be directed to Jane Powers by ...

- calling (202) 586-7301
  - faxing messages to (202) 586-3915
  - communicating electronically, via Internet, to [jane.powers@eh.doe.gov](mailto:jane.powers@eh.doe.gov)
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